

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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COUNTRY Venezuela
SUBJECT PRP Activities in State of Monagas

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(b) (3)]

DATE OF INFO. July 1950

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SOURCE [(b) (1) C
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1. In May 1950, at the time of the arrest of Atilio Gonzalez, black Communist leader and Claims Secretary of the Sindicato de Trabajadores Petroleros (STP) de Caripito, independent union in the State of Monagas, Venezuela, Gonzalez's desk was searched and among his effects was found what appeared to be a handwritten outline for a report on the activities of the Partido Revolucionario del Proletariado Comunista (PRP - black Communist party) in that area.
2. The notes indicated that there are three active local PRP committees, located in Caripito, San Antonio de Maturin, and Maturin. A further breakdown showed that there existed company cells, vanguardias, and fracciones.
3. According to the notes, the workers' movement in the region has declined considerably, both in strength and in ability to fight. Dismissal of large numbers of workers has weakened the unions numerically. The majority of oil workers in Monagas have received little education and are unable to combat the enemy in a "consistent revolutionary form". Also, the present state of suspension of guarantees, as well as the division of workers into different syndicates in the same area, contributed much to the weakening of the combative spirit of the workers.
4. The notes commented on the collapse of the farmers' unions and peasant leagues following the disbanding of the Confederacion Venezolana de Trabajadores, an Accion Democratica farm workers group. The PRP was shown to be gaining in the peasant field and to have gained control of two unions at San Antonio de Maturin, a small town northwest of Maturin near the boarder of the State of Sucre, whereas no other political group has a controlled peasant movement.
5. Reference was made in the notes to the sale of the "newspaper" which is distributed in Caripito, Josepin, Quiriquiro, Maturin, Punta de Mata, Tejero, and San Antonio de Maturin. The notes mentioned that sales had increased in the locales (local committees) but decreased in the regiones (regional committees) so that the two were shown selling in the same proportion. Regional sales are made in some areas by individuals, in others by commissions or brigades.

Approved for Release
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[] Comment. It is presumed that the newspaper referred to is the PP, the black Communist party organ, although copies of that paper have never been seen in the area. The Tribuna Popular, organ of the Partido Comunista de Venezuela (red Communist party), was widely read in the state prior to its going underground.

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